

BMR4MRA MA

XXIII

BERSERKER 23

Oct. 17, 1974.

Berserker is published by Doug Ronson of 864 Ingersoll Ct., Mississauga, Ont. L5J 2S1 who also happens to be typing this. Anyone foolish enough to want to join a game of regular diplomacy in this thing should send a dollar for a seven issue subscription and two dollars for a refundable deposit. There are now two openings, with Jelle Torrostra having signed up since last issue.

Harry Draws wrote to say that I shouldn't have plugged his zine Median Record because he doesn't want any subscribers. That is really a shame because I think Harry has a real flair for writing.

John Coleman has announced that he will not publish Domination any longer in favour of becoming a full time student. We all wish John the best of luck in his studies and hope that he returns to publishing Domination sometime in the near future.

Also, I received the following note from Brian Clogg: "I hope all you easterners will note with fear the treatment of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats at the hands of the B.C. Lions. We've got it together and with Russo coming back we'll see you at the Grey Cup."

Yes, I must admit that B.C. looked impressive against Hamilton and have looked good all year. But I still wouldn't leave out Edmonton who have a good team and should give the Lions a fight for the Western Conference. As for "the Big Four" my heart is with the Argos but I think Montreal will win it, but not without a struggle. So we should see Montreal and B.C. in the cup but who will win that contest is beyond me.

I don't know whether the B.C.-Hamilton game was on TV in the U.S. or A. but Americans should note (not with fear) that that game was one of the best this year Canadian or American. I am not saying that Canadian is better but you Americans should realize that there's a lot of good football up here.

Calhauer Awards

Yes, poor readers, once again you will be forced to listen to me ramble on about the Awards.

But first a few thoughts by Robert Correll: ...One must recognize that any awards in a hobby that is for the most part, a collection of separate groups fragmented by distance, will reflect the ignorance of many group members concerning the efforts of

their compatriots. Active groups will tend to dominate less active groups. We saw it this year with the triumph of the British. Regionalization will defeat the purpose of the Calhauer Awards, that being to provide "hobby-wide recognition" for an individual. The solution lay in the realization that democracy under such conditions is simply not appropriate. This is to suggest that future Calhauer Awards be decided by a panel of representatives designated by people knowledgeable of the play-by-mail hobby, who could meet previous to the awards session and discuss the candidates. No system will provide a perfectly equitable solution to the difficulty of award designation, but with our hobby such as it is, a panel of knowledgeable individuals would provide the best alternative.

There are a lot of ninety dollar words in there but I get the impression that Robert agrees with me. John Boyer, editor of Diplomacy Review has proposed that the same system be used as Robert and I suggest. So, it looks like the Awards will be run on the panel system next year.

I finally read the full details of the suggestion by Lewis Pulsipher to split the Calhauer Awards into two regions.

In his letter, appearing in DR Sept., he states that the Awards "have been a farce partly because of poor management and partly because of voter ignorance." In fact he even admits that he didn't know anything about the winner of the variant award. But, there is no way he can blame anything on the voters. There is clearly no way a voter can be expected to receive every zine, have played in every variant etc. The old voting system may have been fine in the time when everyone received everyone else's zine but with the hobby at its present size that system is impossible. Look I will admit that the Panel System isn't democratic but surely it will work better than the present one.

He goes on further to say that votes should be made public because more people would vote if they realized it would be so close. The real reason is that nobody really knows what's going on. Pulsipher even admits that it is "foolish to expect an average player to make an intelligent and meaningful vote in such circumstances. Yet he poses no solution to this problem hoping that it will remedy itself. Bull it will! The IDA has to look at the way the awards are being handed out or we'll get another farce next year.

Then he goes on to accuse the British of "gang-voting". Bull again! They merely showed interest in the awards. The reason more Britons won awards than Americans is because they will obviously receive mostly British zines and so their bias will lean towards the British.

And don't tell me that there are more than 10 people in the hobby who could say that they completed that ballot knowing for sure that they were making relatively unbiased judgements.

Furthermore about the zine that printed the ballot and told how the editor would vote, although I am not aware of the details of the zine I would think that the editor was merely trying to help voters who otherwise would just tick off the first familiar

name on the list. Also it should be noted that this was done in North America in John Leeder's Arrakis. In his zine John even said that it was almost impossible to make an unbiased vote and that we should vote for the entrants we know, thus giving us a general consensus. Bull! All it will give us is a general popularity contest. Take an example; say zine A is received by 200 people, and zine B is received by 50. Suppose that zine B is the better zine and that everyone votes. B will get 50 votes and A will get 200 and win undeservingly. Is this what we want, a popularity contest.

The Calhamer Awards are one big popularity contest and won't change until we do something about it. Splitting the awards will merely aggrivate the situation and split the hobby, in other words defeat the whole purpose of the CA which is to give hobby-wide recognition of work in the hobby, and defeating one of the purposes of the International Diplomacy Association which is to help hold the hobby together.

The Games

1973GP SPRING 1906 - STALEMATE LINES FORMING WITH POOR ITALY
CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE

England (Laurence Gillespie) a nwy-stp, f bar s nwy-stp, a fin s nwy-stp, f bot-liv, f den-bal, f nth h
France (Brian Clogg) a pic h, a bur-mun, a ruh s bur-mun, a mun-sil, a gas-mar, a mar-naf, f lyo c mar-naf, f wme c mar-naf
f kie-ber
Italy (Ron Kelly) f ion-adr, a tus-rom, a pie-tus
Russia (Larry Doble) a gal-sil, a war s gal-sil, a pru s ber, a be r s english den-kie (aso) a stp-livo, a mos s stp-livo
a r um-gal, f bla-con, f sev-bla
Austria (Richard Kukan) a ven h, f tri s ven, a bud-vie, f aege ion, a ser-alb, a vie-boh, a tyro s vie-boh

Retreats NONE

Press: LONDON RUSSIAN ARMY SMASHED/ST. PETERSBURG FALLS!!
It was reported that as of April 3rd, 1906, St. Petersburg had fallen under Scandinavian control, thus ending the siege of the north Russia port in resounding allied victory. The city had held out for over six months, but deprived of supplies, under constant naval bombardment from vessels of the British second fleet, and surrounded on all sides, the fate of the city was never in doubt. Participating in the attack were 30,000 members of the Free Finnish Legion, 230,000 British troops, and over 50,000 troops of mixed Scandinavian origin, predominantly Swedish. At the end of the siege over 25,000 Russian prisoners were taken, thus virtually ending the career of the Russian army group North. Fleet engineering officials have reported that the Russian dockyard facilities should be ready for use within the month, as thousands of tons of munitions and supplies are on route to the troops in northern Russia stockpile in Helsinki. Admiral Boden, supreme commander of the allied naval forces in the Baltic, has announced that the next step in the campaign to exterminate the odious Czarist presence in Europe will be the liberation of the Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. Already thousands of marines have landed in the capitals of all three countries and provisional governments there will be set up shortly.

1972BE - Here are the corrected positions for Spring 1909:

Russia (JH Fleming) has; f nat, f yor, f nth, f kie, a hol,
a ber, a ~~war~~ sil, a war, a ukr, a rum, f bla
England (Laurence Gillespie did not really want to take over as
England because it will hurt his rating, so seeing that it can
have little affect on the outcome of the game f LON now becomes
Mr. Civil Disorder)
Austria (Terry Knowles) has; f tri, a vie, a bud, a boh, a nap
f alb, a ser also has a sil which must retreat to gal, pru or
otb and a bul which must retreat to gre or otb.
France (Ron Kelly) f wal, f eng, f mid, a ruh,, a mar, f lyo
a bur, f bul(ser) f aeg, f con, a mun

My apologies for messing up the positions last time and let's
hope that we can get this game moving now.

DEADLINE IS: Friday November 8th with orders accepted by phone
on Saturday up until 6.00 pm..

THIMO

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